

of agriculture with a view to augment farmers' income and bring about sustainable use of natural resources; (ii) grain management to make the whole system more cost effective and better integrated to the world economy; and (iii) rationalization of prices and input supplying agencies to make the system more efficient and cost effective. The preliminary analysis in the study indicates that the Punjab agriculture sector has reached a point where it must make significant change if it wants to move forward and regain its leadership. Conversely, if it does not rationalize incentives, create new and reinvigorate old institutions, and Increase investment significantly, it will suffer declining income and employment and irreversible environmental degradation.

(c) The Government of India is advising State to promote diversification from cereal centric cropping system to more remunerative, high value crops to enhance the income of the farmers and improve Punjab's agricultural economy. National Horticulture Mission has been launched during 2006-07 in the country including Punjab to promote fruits, vegetables, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is in operation to promote oilseeds, pulses and maize in the State.

Tuna fishing in EEZ

1028. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued tender to hire tuna fishing boats to fish in our EEZ waters;

(b) when this offer was made by Government to foreign fishing companies;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage Indian entrepreneurs to find finance and funds to start tuna fishing in our EEZ waters; and

(d) the reasons for neglecting our highly potential marine fisheries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRISHARAD PAWAR): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Government, through component of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of marine fisheries provides subsidy amounting to 50% of cost of conversion of deep sea fishing trawlers into tuna long liners with a ceiling of Rs. 15 Lakhs per vessel. Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) also have similar scheme for providing financial assistance for such conversion of trawlers into tuna long liners. In addition to this, many public sector Banks are willing to provide credit facilities on merits of such proposals.

(d) Question does not arise.

Procurement on MSP

†1029. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, gram, barley and other foodgrains procured on minimum support price under Rabi crops during 2006-07;

(b) the quantum of procurement and storage of these crops on minimum support price during 2005-06; and

(c) the reasons for this shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 has been 92.26 lakh tonnes, while no procurement of gram and barley has taken place during 2006-07.

(b) and (c) The procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 has been less mainly on account of high open market prices and active participation by private traders.

National Horticulture Mission and National Bamboo Mission

1030. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a National Horticulture Mission and also a National Bamboo Mission with emphasis and to display the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.